

NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 175

Introduced by Landis, 46

Read first time May 18, 2005

Committee:

PURPOSE: To study the overall structure of Nebraska's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and potential alternative funding sources.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is underfunded by the federal government and does not adequately meet the needs of eligible Nebraskans. Energy assistance is a critical support program for many low-income, disabled, elderly, and other Nebraskans. Lack of adequate funding for energy assistance in Nebraska has dramatic negative effects on the health and welfare of individuals and families. Input shall be solicited from the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, various private and nonprofit organizations, utility providers, and utility consumers to examine alternative state, private, and other funding mechanisms to increase funds viable under Nebraska's energy assistance programs. The study shall also include a review of programs in other states in order to improve Nebraska's energy assistance programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.